

JUDICIAL MERIT SELECTION COMMISSION PERSONAL DATA QUESTIONNAIRE

Court, Position, and Seat # for which you are applying: Family Court Judge, 11th Circuit Seat 1

1. Name: The Honorable William Gregory Seigler

Name that you are known by if different from above: Greg

Are you currently serving in some capacity as a judge? Yes. Family Court

Business Address:

133 S. Mine Street

McCormick, SC 29835

Telephone Number:

(office): 803 785-8452

2. Date of Birth:

1974

Place of Birth:

Augusta, GA

3. Are you a citizen of South Carolina? Yes

Have you been a resident of this state for at least the immediate past five years? Yes

- 5. Family Status: Married on August 19, 2008 to Jennifer P. Seigler. Divorced on July 14, 2006, Family Court-8th Circuit. William Gregory Seigler was moving party, one year continuous separation-grounds. Three children.
- 6. Have you served in the military? No
- List each college and law school you attended, including the dates of your attendance, the
 degrees you received, and if you left an institution without receiving a degree, the reason for
 your departure.
 - (a) The Citadel, August 1992-May 1996, BS;
 - (b) Mississippi College School of Law, August 1996-May 1997;
 - (c) USC School of Law, August 1997-May 1999-JD.
- 8. List the states in which you have been admitted to practice law and the year of each admission. Also list any states in which you took the bar exam but were never admitted to the practice of law. If you took the bar exam more than once in any of the states listed, please indicate the number of times you took the exam in each state. South Carolina, 2000
- 9. List the significant activities in which you took part during your attendance at college, graduate, and law school. Give the dates you were involved in these activities and list any leadership positions you held.
 - (a) N Co. CADRE 1993, N Co.Clerk, August 1993-December 1993;
 - (b) Fourth Battalion Clerk-January 1994-May 1994;
 - (c) N Co. CADRE 1994, NCO Instructor, N. CO. First Sgt.-August 1994-May 1995;
 - (d) Numerous Intramural Sports;
 - (e) Inn or Court, Round Table.
- 10. Describe your continuing legal or judicial education during the past five years.

Conference/CLE Name		Date(s)
(a)	Family Court Judge's Conference	4/16/15-4/17/15;
(b)	Family Court Bench/Bar	12/2014;
(c)	Trial Lawyers Family Court CLE	8/2014;
(d)	Annual Public Defender Conference	9/28/2013;
(e)	Annual Public Defender Conference	9/27/2012;

- (f) Annual Public Defender Conference 9/26/2011;
- (g) Annual Public Defender Conference 9/27/2010;
- (h) Annual Public Defender Conference 9/28/2009.
- 11. Have you taught law-related courses or lectured at bar association conferences, educational institutions, or continuing legal or judicial education programs?
- 12. List all published books and articles you have written and give citations and the dates of publication for each.

None

- 13. List all courts in which you have been admitted to practice and list the dates of your admission. Give the same information for administrative bodies that require a special admission to practice.
 - (a) SC Courts-2000;
 - (b) Federal District Court-2000.
- 14. Describe chronologically your legal experience since graduation from law school and include a list of all law firms with which you have been associated. Describe the general character of your practice and divide it into periods with dates if its character has changed over the years.
 - (a) Law Offices of W. Greg Seigler, Inc., 2000-2010. Solo Practitioner with a general practice that focused on family law, but included criminal, probate, personal injury, and real estate law. During this time I was attorney for the Town of Troy (Greenwood County), Plum Branch (McCormick County);
 - (b) Chief Municipal Judge-Calhoun Falls (Abbeville County), 2005-2007;
 - (c) Tri-County Public Defender (Edgefield, McCormick, Saluda Counties) 2007-2008 part time. I represented indigent defendants charged with crimes in all three counties, in General Session Court, Family Court, and in Magistrates/Municipal Court;
 - (d) Eleventh Circuit Public Defender's Office/Lexington County as the Tri-County Public Defender (Edgefield, McCormick, Saluda Counties) 2008-2014 full time. I represented indigent defendants charged with crimes in all three counties, in General Session Court, Family Court, and in Magistrates/Municipal Court;
 - (e) Family Court Judge, Eleventh Circuit Seat 1, May 28th, 2014-current.
- 16. What is your rating, if any, by any legal rating organization, such as, <u>Best Lawyers</u>, <u>Chambers</u>, <u>Legal 500</u>, <u>Martindale-Hubbell</u>, <u>Who's Who Legal</u>, <u>Super Lawyers</u>, etc.? If you are currently a member of the judiciary, list your last available rating, if any. N/A
- 23. Have you ever held judicial office? If so, list the periods of your service, the courts involved, and whether you were elected or appointed. Describe the jurisdiction of each of the courts and note any limitations on the jurisdiction of each court.
 - (a) Family Court Judge, Eleventh Circuit Seat 1, May 28th, 2014-current, elected by the South Carolina General Assembly. The Family Court has exclusive jurisdiction over all matters involving domestic or family relationships, including all cases involving marriage, divorce, legal separation, custody, visitation, termination of parental rights, adoption, support, alimony, division of marital property, and name change, minors under 17 charged with crimes.
 - (b) Chief Municipal Court Judge-Calhoun Falls (Abbeville County) 2005-2007, appointed by the mayor and town council. Municipal Courts have jurisdiction over cases arising under ordinances of the town, and to all offenses subject to fines less

than \$500.00 or 30 days. The powers are identical to magistrate, except they have no civil jurisdiction.

- 24. If the answer to question 23 is yes, describe or list five of your most significant orders or opinions and give the citations if they were reported. Also list citations to any appellate review of these orders or opinions.
 - (a) <u>Barnes v Williams</u>-trial where grandparents were seeking custody of grandson from his mother.
 - (b) <u>Downs v Downs</u>-trial involving parental custody of four children and divorce.
 - (c) <u>DSS v Jane Doe and John Doe</u>-trial with DSS seeking termination of parental rights.
 - (d) <u>Brown v Jones</u>-trial involving an unmarried couple who were parents of a minor child, both seeking custody.
 - (e) I could list many orders that are significant that I have issued as could every family court judge in this state, because each and every order involving a minor child or children is extremely and uniquely significant.
- 25. Have you ever held public office other than judicial office? If so, list the periods of your service, the office or offices involved, and whether you were elected or appointed. Also, state whether or not you have timely filed your report with the State Ethics Commission during the period you held public office. If not, were you ever subject to a penalty?

Public Defender as described above.

26. List all employment you had while serving as a judge (whether full-time or part-time, contractual or at will, consulting or otherwise) other than elected judicial office. Specify your dates of employment, employer, major job responsibilities, and supervisor.

Law Offices of W. Greg Seigler, Inc., 2005-2007.

- 27. Have you ever been an unsuccessful candidate for elective, judicial, or other public office?

 I was a judicial candidate for Family Court At-Large, Seat 2. Five people filed for the seat. I was found qualified and nominated, but I withdrew my candidacy prior to election.
- 28. Have you ever been engaged in any occupation, business, or profession other than the practice of law, teaching of law, or holding judicial or other public office?
 - I began working in my early teens. I worked at McCormick Building and Farm Supply loading bags of seed, concrete, lumber and building supplies, etc. I worked at Gurley's Supermarket, and Baker Creek State Park as a lifeguard, while in high school. During the summer months while attending college I was also a lifeguard for the Town of Ware Shoals and Savannah Lakes Village. I also taught swimming lessons for underprivileged kids at John de la Howe School. I worked for the US Army Corps of Engineers at Strom Thurmond Dam. During law school I worked for O. Lee Sturkey, Attorney at Law, and The Garrett Law Firm.
- 29. Are you now an officer or director or involved in the management of any business enterprise? Explain the nature of the business, your duties, and the term of your service.
- 30. A complete, current financial net worth statement was provided to the Commission.
- 31. Describe any financial arrangements or business relationships you have, or have had in the past, that could constitute or result in a possible conflict of interest in the position you seek. Explain how you would resolve any potential conflict of interest.

 None

- 32. Have you ever been arrested, charged, or held by federal, state, or other law enforcement authorities for violation or for suspicion of violation of any federal law or regulation, state law or regulation, or county or municipal law, regulation, or ordinance, or any other law, including another country's law?

 No
- 33. Have you, to your knowledge, ever been under federal, state, or local investigation for possible violation of a criminal statute?

 No
- 34. Has a tax lien or other collection procedure ever been instituted against you by federal, state, or local authorities? Have you ever defaulted on a student loan? Have you ever filed for bankruptcy?

 No
- 35. Have you ever been sued, either personally or professionally, that is, have you ever been named as defendant or respondent in any court of law?
 - In 2011, Stephen Louise Barnes, an inmate formerly on SC's death row, filed an action against me. As public defender I was previously appointed to represent him for a crime that went to trial. He claimed I did not provide him with all of the discovery in his case
- 37. Have you ever been investigated by the Department of Social Services? Has your name ever been enrolled on the Central Registry of Child Abuse and Neglect?
- 38. If you are in private practice, are you covered by malpractice insurance and, if so, how long have you carried malpractice insurance? If applicable, have you ever been covered by a tail policy? If so, please explain when you were covered by a tail policy. Also, if applicable, indicate your coverage and deductible for your current malpractice policy. I purchased a tail policy when I closed my private practice and began full time with the public defender's office. It was to cover any claims made within one year of closing my office.
- 39. Are you active on or a member of a social media or Internet site or have you, to your knowledge, been featured or depicted on a social media or Internet site, such as, Facebook, LinkedIn, Twitter, etc.? If so, how would your use of social media or other similar types of Internet sites be affected if you were serving in a judicial capacity?

 No
- 40. Are you now or have you ever been employed as a "lobbyist," as defined by S.C. Code § 2-17-10(13), or have you acted in the capacity of a "lobbyist's principal," as defined by S.C. Code § 2-17-10(14)?

 No
- 41. Since filing with the Commission your letter of intent to run for judicial office, have you accepted lodging, transportation, entertainment, food, meals, beverages, money, or any other thing of value as defined by S.C. Code § 2-17-10(1) from a lobbyist or lobbyist's principal? No
- 42. S.C. Code § 8-13-700 provides, in part, that "[n]o public official, public member, or public employee may knowingly use his official office, membership, or employment to obtain an economic interest for himself, a member of his immediate family, an individual with whom he is associated, or a business with which he is associated." Please detail any knowledge you have of any formal charges or informal allegations against you or any other candidate for

- violations of these provisions. Include the disposition, if any, of such charges or allegations. None
- 43. S.C. Code § 8-13-765 provides, in part, that "[n]o person may use government personnel, equipment, materials, or an office building in an election campaign." Please detail any knowledge you have of any formal charges or informal allegations against you or any other candidate for violations of these provisions. Include the disposition, if any, of such charges or allegations.

None

44. Itemize (by amount, type, and date) all expenditures, other than those for travel and room and board, made by you, or on your behalf in furtherance of your candidacy for the position you seek.

None

45. List the amount and recipient of all contributions made by you or on your behalf to members of the General Assembly since the announcement of your intent to seek election to a judgeship.

None

46. Have you directly or indirectly requested the pledge of any member of the General Assembly as to your election for the position for which you are being screened? Have you received the assurance of any public official or public employee that they will seek the pledge of any member of the General Assembly as to your election for the position for which you are being screened?

No

- 47. Have you requested a friend or colleague to contact members of the General Assembly on your behalf? If so, give details. Are you aware of any friends or colleagues contacting members of the General Assembly on your behalf?
- 48. Have you or has anyone acting on your behalf solicited or collected funds to aid in the promotion of your candidacy?
- 49. Have you or has anyone acting on your behalf contacted members of the Judicial Merit Selection Commission about your candidacy or intention to become a candidate?
- 50. List all bar associations and professional organizations of which you are a member and give the titles and dates of any offices you have held in such groups.
 - (a) SC Bar;
 - (b) Family Court Judge's Association.
- 51. List all civic, charitable, educational, social, and fraternal organizations of which you are or have been a member during the past five years and include any offices held in such a group, any professional honors, awards, or other forms of recognition received and not listed elsewhere.
 - (a) The Citadel Alumni Association-Life Member;
 - (b) Mason-Mine Lodge 117, Master 2005;
 - (c) Shriner;
 - (d) National Wild Turkey Federation;
 - (e) NRA;
 - (f) SC Wildlife Endowment;

- (g) Bethany Baptist Church-member.
- 52. Provide any other information that may reflect positively or negatively on your candidacy, or which you believe should be disclosed in connection with consideration of you for nomination for the position you seek.

I am very humbled and proud to serve as a Family Court judge in this great state, and I hope to continue doing so for a long time. My experiences thus far have been incredible, and I look forward with keen anticipation to continuing as a distinguished member of our fine judiciary. I simply hope to fulfill my duties as a Family Court judge with great pride and dedication, as I feel that I have since being elected such an honorable position.

- 53. List the names, addresses, and telephone numbers of five persons, including your banker, from whom references could be obtained.
 - (a) Laurie Solesby,
 BB&T Bank,
 200 E. August Street,
 McCormick, SC 29835
 (864) 852-2531
 - Inv. Joseph E. Collier, Jr.,
 McCormick County Sheriff's Office,
 211 W. Augusta Street,
 McCormick, SC 29835
 (864) 852-2520
 - (c) Major William D. Willis,
 McCormick Police Department,
 119 W. Augusta Street,
 McCormick, SC 29835
 (864) 852-2985
 - (d) Hon. Gwen D. Chiles,
 McCormick County Clerk of Court,
 133 S. Mine Street,
 McCormick, SC 29825
 (864) 852-2195
 - (e) Paul Agnew, 114 Court Square, Abbeville, SC 29620 (864) 366-8348
- 54. Describe any interest you or a member of your immediate family has in real property:
 - (a) in which there is a potential conflict of interest with your involvement in a South Carolina state or local public agency;
 - (b) in which there have been public improvements of \$200 or that adjoins property in which there have been public improvements of \$200; or
 - (c) which was sold, leased, or rented to a state or local public agency in South Carolina. List the interest you hold and the value and location of the property. Identify as applicable the:
 - (a) nature of any potential conflict of interest;
 - (b) nature and value of any public improvements; and

(c) South Carolina state or local public agency which purchased or is leasing or renting such property.

Attach a copy of any contract or agreement.

55. Identify any personal property interest you or a member of your immediate family sold, leased, or rented to a South Carolina state or local public agency. Identify the property, its amount or value, and the name of the agency. Attach a copy of any contract or agreement.

YOUR SIGNATURE WILL BE HELD TO CONSTITUTE A WAIVER OF THE CONFIDENTIALITY OF ANY PROCEEDING BEFORE A GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE OR ANY INFORMATION CONCERNING YOUR CREDIT.

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT MY ANSWERS ARE TRUE AND COMPLETE TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE.

Signature: s/William Gregory Seigler

Date: August 3, 2015